(d) if so, the further reaction of Government on such stand of Pakistan Government on prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The present arrangement between India and Pakistan on grant of Consular Access and the release of each other's nationals in custody is governed by the provisions of the Protocol on Consular access of 2 November 1982. Government is concerned that 372 fishermen and an estimated 199 prisoners are in jails in Pakistan, many of whom have not been granted consular access despsite prolonged periods in custody.

(c) On occassion there has been delay in repatriation of Pakistan prisoners as travel documents were not provided to them in time by the Government of Pakistan.

(d) A new Consular Agreement is being finalised with Pakistan to replace the existing protocol to ensure expeditious release of and consular access to prisoners. A Judicial Committee comprising superior judges from both countries has been set up to address such issues.

Capturing of Indian boats by Pakistan

2230. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 343 Indian fishing boats have been captured and kept in custody by Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA);

(b) if so, the action Government is taking to get the boats released;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to provide insurance or loan for the replacement of the seized boats; and

(d) if so, the component of subsidy and rate of interests on the loans by banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government are aware of 342 Indian fishing boats currently held by Pakistan. During the SAARC Summit in New Delhi on 4 April 2007, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaukat Aziz had assured Prime Minister that Pakistan would take early action to return fishing boats seized from Indian fishermen to their owners. Government await the implementation of this commitment. The matter is being continuously pursued with the Government of Pakistan.

(c) and (d) On 27 September 2007 Prime Minister announced that Ministry of Finance shall liaise with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) which has been designated as the implementing agency to develop a suitable soft loan package for the replacement of fishing boats.

Indians in forced marriages in England

†2231. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forced marriages in England include Indians;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.